

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7363

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1478

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CI

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS WITH SENATORS KENNEDY AND HUMPHREY

1. SUMMARY: RANKING OFFICERS OF RECESSED SPLINTER POLITICAL PARTY HAVE ASKED EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE IN FACILITATING APPOINTMENTS WITH CERTAIN US SENATORS (KENNEDY AND HUMPHREY) FOR LUIS BOSSAY LEIVA, OLD LINE RADICAL AND PRESIDENT OF SOCIAL DEMOCRAT PARTY (NEW NAME FOR LEFTIST RADICAL PARTY - PIR). ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN REQUESTING APPOINTMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. ARTURO VENEGAS GUTIERREZ AND AMADOR NAVARRO NOVOA, VICE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY GENERAL RESPECTIVELY OF SOCIAL DEMOCRAT PARTY, INVITED EMBOFF TO LUNCH OSTENSIBLY TO ACQUAINT HIM WITH PARTY'S THINKING ON CURRENT SITUATION. REAL OBJECTIVE, WHICH QUICKLY BECAME OBVIOUS, WAS TO SOLICIT EMBASSY'S AND DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS WITH SENATORS KENNEDY AND HUMPHREY FOR LUIS BOSSAY. ALTERNATIVELY, PAIR WONDERED IF EMBASSY WOULD TRANSMIT LETTERS FROM PARTY TO SENATORS REQUESTING APPOINTMENTS SINCE THEY FEARED REGULAR MAIL WOULD BE INTERCEPTED. EMBOFF WAS NONCOMMITTAL.

3. VENEGAS AND NAVARRO TOLD EMBOFF THAT BOSSAY NOW PLANNING PILGRIMAGE THROUGH HEMISPHERE AND EUROPE TO OUTLINE HIS VIEWS OF CHILEAN SITUATION AND TAKE TEMPERATURE OF FOREIGN ENVIRONMENT. ALLEGEDLY AFRAID THAT REGULAR INTERNATIONAL
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MAIL WOULD BE INTERCEPTED AND RELUCTANT TO WASTE TIME

VISITING US IF UNABLE TO MEET WITH LEADING LIGHTS, BOSSAY WISHED TO LEARN IF DEPARTMENT COULD BE HELPFUL.

4. AS RELATED BY VENEGAS, PARTY DOES NOT URGE IMMEDIATE RETURN TO ELECTED GOVERNMENT BUT BELIEVES BOTH JUNTA AND COMMUNISTS HAVE MUTUAL INTEREST IN DOWNPLAYING POSSIBILITY OF ALTERNATIVES BETWEEN EXTREMES. THEY MAKE CASE THAT NUMBER OF MIDDLE-GROUND SOLUTIONS EXIST BUT STRANGE CONFLUENCE OF PROPAGANDA FROM EITHER EXTREME HAS DISTORTED OUTSIDE WORLD'S CONCEPT OF CHILEAN PROSPECTS. THEY SEEK CONTINUED INCENTIVES FROM ABROAD TO MOVE MILITARY TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY OTHER POSSIBILITIES. SPECIFICALLY, THEY HOPE MILITARY CAN BE PERSUADED TO ANNOUNCE FIRM CALENDAR FOR RETURN TO RULE OF CONSTITUTION AND LAW. THEIR ARGUMENT CONCLUDES THAT INTERNAL PRESSURES ARE GROWING QUICKLY, THAT THE JUNTA'S BASE OF SUPPORT OR SHRINKING APACE AND THAT THE SITUATION WILL UNRAVEL AT ACCELERATING RATE UNLESS MILITARY MOVES SOON TO RELAX INTERNAL SECURITY PRACTICES AND EASE ECONOMIC POLICIES.

5. DEPARTMENT HAS AMPLE BIO MATERIAL ON BOSSAY, WHO FOR NUMBER OF YEARS TYPIFIED RADICAL PARTY, EVENTUALLY SPLIT OFF TO LEFT OF PR AND ESTABLISHED PIR. PIR FLIRTED BRIEFLY WITH UP COALITION, LEFT IT AND JOINED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT-ORIENTED OPPOSITION. PIR GROUP NOW STYLES ITSELF SOCIAL DEMOCRAT PARTY AND CLAIMS CLOSE PHILOSOPHIC TIES WITH ACCION DEMOCRATICA IN VENEZUELA.

6. IN SUM, BOSSAY IS ESTABLISHED MODERATE POLITICAL FIGURE ON CHILEAN SCENE WHO ESPOUSES POLICY NOT TO JUNTA'S LIKING. HE IS KNOWN PERSONALLY TO A NUMBER OF US OFFICIALS INCLUDING USOAS AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD.

7. EMBASSY HAS WEIGHED PROS AND CONS AND ON BALANCE BELIEVES IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO APPROACH SENATORS' STAFFS STATING THAT BOSSAY, OLD-TIME CHILEAN POLITICAL FIGURE OF DEMOCRATIC PERSUASION, HAS INQUIRED IF SENATORS WOULD MEET WITH HIM WHILE IN THE UNITED STATES ON A PRIVATE VISIT. WHETHER OR NOT APPOINTMENT MATERIALIZES IS NOT THE ISSUE.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: UNLESS DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES OBJECTIONS
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PLEASE SOUND OUT SENATORS' STAFFS AND LET US KNOW RESULTS.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

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